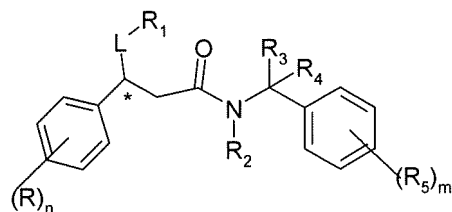


Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R is halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, cyano, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy;

R₁ is a ~~5 or 6 membered heteroaryl group, in which the 5 membered heteroaryl group contains at least one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen and the 6 membered heteroaryl group contains from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms, or~~ R₁ is a 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, wherein ~~said 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl or the 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by one to three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from (CH₂)_pR₆, wherein p is zero or an integer from 1 to 4 and R₆ is selected from:~~

halogen,

C₁₋₄alkoxy,

C₁₋₄alkyl,

C₃₋₇cycloalkyl,

C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, cyano or C₁₋₄ alkoxy,

hydroxy,

cyano,

nitro,

trifluoromethyl,

carboxy,

NH(C₁₋₄ alkyl),

N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂

NH(C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl),

N(C₁₋₄ alkyl)(C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl);

NH(C₁₋₄alkylOC₁₋₄alkoxy),

$\text{OC(O)NR}_7\text{R}_8$,

$\text{NR}_8\text{C(O)R}_7$ or

$\text{C(O)NR}_7\text{R}_8$;

R_2 is hydrogen, or C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R_3 and R_4 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or R_3 together with R_4 and the carbon to which they are bonded is C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

R_5 is trifluoromethyl, $\text{S(O)}_q\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, halogen or cyano;

R_7 and R_8 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

L is a single or a double bond;

n is an integer from 1 to 3;

m is zero or an integer from 1 to 3;

q is zero or an integer from 1 to 2;

provided that

a) when L is a double bond, R_1 is not an optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl group, in which the 5-membered heteroaryl group contains at least one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen and the 6-membered heteroaryl group contains from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms;

b) the group R_1 is linked to the carbon atom shown as * via a carbon atom;

and

c) when the heteroatom contained in the group R_1 is substituted, p is not zero;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_5 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is an integer from 1 to 2.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is piperidyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2; R₁ is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R₁ is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl or ethylC₁₋₄ alkoxy; R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen or methyl; R₄ is hydrogen, methyl or together with R₃ is cyclopropyl and R₅ is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

N-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-piperidin-4-yl-propionamide;

N-(3,5-Dichloro-benzyl)-3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-piperidin-4-yl-propionamide;

N-[1-(3,5-Dichloro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-piperidin-4-yl-propionamide;

N-[1-(3,5-Dichloro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-[1-(2-methoxyethyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-propionamide;

N-(3,5-Dichloro-benzyl)-3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-piperidin-4-yl)-*N*-methyl-propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-{1-[2-(methoxy)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl}propionamide/*N*-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propanamide;

N-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3-bromo-4-(methoxy)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-dimethylphenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,4-dibromophenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3-fluoro-2-methylphenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(3-piperidinylidene)propionamide;

N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinylidene)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)propionamide;

N-{(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(3-pyrrolidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(3-fluoro-3-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide;

N-{1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(2-morpholinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(3-piperidinyl)propionamide;

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-pyridinyl)propionamide;

and enantiomers, diastereoisomers, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from

N-{[(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide (diastereoisomer 1);

N-{[(1*S*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide (diastereoisomer 2);

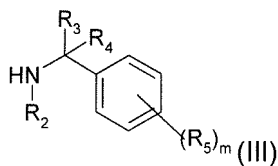
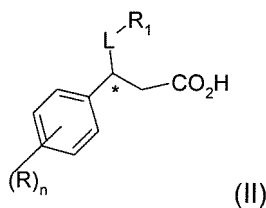
N-{[(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer 1);

N-{[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (enantiomer 2);

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(3-fluoro-3-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer A);

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1 which comprises reacting an activated derivative of the carboxylic acid of formula (II) wherein R₁ has the meaning previously defined or is a protected group thereof, with amine (III)



wherein R₂ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or a nitrogen protecting group, followed where necessary by removal of any protecting group.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.
15. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2; R₁ is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R₁ is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from fluorine, methyl or ethylC₁₋₄ alkoxy; R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen or methyl; R₄ is hydrogen, methyl or together with R₃ is cyclopropyl and R₅ is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.
16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a depressive state in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.
17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said depressive state is a Major Depressive Disorder.
18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said mammal is man.
19. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of anxiety in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.
20. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.